

Rabies Tips



Avoid direct contact with stray animals. Stray cats and dogs may not have been vaccinated against rabies.



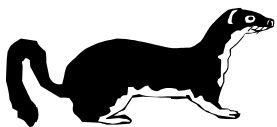
Do not try to nurse sick animals to health. It is common to want to rescue and help a hurt, wild animal, but that wild animal could have rabies.



Never touch unfamiliar or wild animals. Make sure that your trash cans and pet foods are secured so that they do not attract wild animals.



Make sure your pet gets and wears their rabies vaccination tags. They should also wear a tag with their name, your address and phone number.



Vaccinate your dogs, cats, and ferrets against rabies.

Pet Telephone Directory

Louisville Metro Health Department
Rabies Control.....502-574-6640

Metro Animal Services.....502-363-6609

The Kentucky Humane Society
Animal Rescue League.....502-366-3355

Department of Fish and
Wildlife Resources.....502-595-4039

To report strays or animals
running loose.....502-363-6609

For more information on rabies
and animal bites : Call the
Division of Environmental Health
and Protection.....502-574-6650



www.health.co.jefferson.ky.us

You and Your Pet's Health



Know more about :
Animal Bites
Rabies Vaccinations
Pet Licenses

The life saved by a rabies
vaccination may be that
of your child or your pet !

Division of
Environmental
Health and
Protection



Rabies is caused by a virus. An animal gets rabies from the saliva or usually from a bite of an animal that has the disease. You cannot get rabies from blood. Rabies can be found in mammals and occurs more often in wild animals. In Kentucky, rabies is mostly found in bats, skunks, and raccoons.

Your pet is at risk if it comes in contact with or is bitten by a rabid wild animal. This puts you and your family at risk for rabies if your pet; who might have been infected by a rabid animal, comes in contact with you.

There are two common types of rabies. One type is "**furious**" rabies. Animals with this type are hostile, may bite at objects, and have an increase in saliva. A pet that is usually friendly may snap at you and try to bite. Rabid animals may look like they are foaming at the mouth. This is due to the increased saliva in their mouth.

The second and more common form of rabies is known as paralytic or "**dumb**" rabies. An animal with this type is timid and shy. The animal often rejects food and has problems swallowing.

Animals in the early stage of rabies may not appear sick or have any signs. They can still infect you with rabies if they bite you.

If you think you have been bitten by a rabid animal, seek medical care immediately. You can get anti-rabies shots to fight off the disease. Rabies shots need to be given as soon as possible after a bite has occurred, before symptoms appear.

Animal bites can be a serious medical problem. Rabies is the biggest concern, but any bite or scratch that breaks the skin can cause a dangerous infection.

What to do if bitten by an animal?

- If the bite or scratch is minor, wash the wound with soap and water for at least five minutes. Serious or multiple bites and facial bites should be seen by a doctor for treatment.
- Instruct children to tell an adult immediately, when they are bitten by an animal.
- All dog, cat and ferret bites must be reported to the Louisville Metro Health Department Rabies Program
To report bites : 502-574-6640 .
- Have the following information ready for the report:
 1. A description of the dog, cat or ferret ; **breed, size and color.**
 2. Date of the bite and location of the bite on the person's body.
 3. Name and address of the animal's owner, or the address of where the bite occurred.
 4. If the animal is a stray or running loose, contact Louisville Metro Animal Services : **502-363-6609**

Bites from bats are the main source of rabies in humans in the United States. It is possible, but rare, that someone might be bitten by a bat and not know it. If you discover a bat in the house, especially in the room of a sleeping person, child or a mentally disabled person, treat this situation as though an actual bite has occurred. This is especially true if the bat is acting strangely (unusually tame).

Louisville Metro Pet and Animal laws

Vaccinations

Your dog, cat or ferret must be vaccinated against rabies. Laws require that your pet be vaccinated at 4 months of age. The vaccination tags must be worn on the pet's collar. Rabies vaccinations must be kept up-to-date for the life of your pet.

Licensing

Each dog and cat 4 months or older must be licensed and wear the license on its collar or harness at all times. A valid rabies vaccination certificate must be presented to the Metro Animal Services to obtain a license. Licenses are issued for a period of 1 year from the date the pet receives a rabies vaccination and must be re-issued each year.

Metro Animal Services

502-361-1318

**** if mailing in the license fee, add 50¢**

Altered pets (spayed/neutered) : \$7.00

Unaltered pets : \$35.00

Senior Citizens : \$4.00 : You can only license one pet per household for this reduced rate. See above fee rates for all other pets in the household.

Dog and Cat Bites

If your pet bites or scratches someone, you must report the bite to the Louisville Metro Health Department Rabies Program at 574-6640. Your pet will be placed under quarantine for ten (10) days.

Restraint

Unrestrained and/or pets running loose can be picked up by animal control officers and kept at the Metro Animal Services facility.